

individual that stays in the state. I don't think there can be any further arguments that will show how important this type of an operation is.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please. Senator Nelson waives. Senator Withem, please, on the bill. Senator Ron Withem, please, on the bill.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, I guess I am rising...I was going to speak on the Withem-Johnson kill motion a moment ago, but my very able co-sponsor of that resolution didn't give me an opportunity to before withdrawing it which is fine. I appreciate his doing that, but I would like to explain to the body a little bit about why at least I was frustrated enough by this bill to join into a kill motion, and if nothing else, it is to direct the body's attention to what may be happening to us here today. What happened was we had the folks from the university bring us a bill. They had Senator Goodrich carry a bill in 656 which would have given them the option of closing an institution which they wished to do. With the committee amendments, they would have been forced into keeping that particular institution open. With the bill in its current form, they are in a no lose position. They are risking nothing. They basically won all that they care to, and we are faced here in the Legislature with cleaning up the dirty work afterwards by fighting out among ourselves whether or not we are going to appropriate another million and a quarter dollars above and beyond what is appropriated in the budget for the university to keep this particular school open. The university by this amendment has been held harmless. I guess I would like to serve notice that as one senator, and it may be 48 to 0, nothing vote, that if the A bill to 656 passes, it is my intention to seek that million and a quarter dollars out of existing University of Nebraska programs. I think what we have done is put ourselves in a position here where rather than facing up to the problem and telling the university to face up to its problem, and us facing up to our problems, we are skirting around the issue and I don't think we are acting in a terribly responsible fashion here today. I probably am not going to support the advancement of this bill, and I am very interested in seeing what the actions of the university are after today.